



Howdy Folks,

It seems like the clubhouse has been a beehive of activity over the last few weeks with Spring cleaning, yard work, Technician Classes, open houses and well-attended workshops.

Planning is ongoing for the upcoming ARRL Field Day, and I sense that the cadre of volunteers has been a bit reluctant to step up and offer to help. Since the event is only a bit over 2 months away, it's critical that we identify leaders and team members soon. If you want the event to happen, it's up to you, the members.

On another note, I was wandering around town the other day and happened to run into Radioman. Now, many of you may ask "Who the heck is Radioman?". Well, about a decade ago, this mysterious and well-seasoned, curmudgeonly amateur operator would contribute his thoughts and opinions to The Bark, often in the guise of quick-witted tomfoolery around the First of April.

We visited a bit and he suggested re-running one of his classic columns from April 2007. I hope we hear more from him again soon.

March 31 has come and gone, and if you have not yet renewed your membership, you are now delinquent. Please tend to it as soon as you can so we can better plan activities and budgets throughout the year.

That's about it for now. Keep your fingers crossed that the nice weather continues for a while and that we can get some of the maintenance projects done around the clubhouse. Stay safe everyone, on the roads and around your shacks.

73 de Mike W7MWF

In This Month's Issue

Minutes and Meeting Highlights	Page 2
Announcements	Page 5
Around the Clubhouse	Page 6
Radioman Returns!!	Page 7
Member's Wallpaper	Page 9
The Fine Print	Page 10



RCT Board of Directors**4 March 2015 Meeting Minutes**

The Radio Club of Tacoma Board meeting was held at the Radio Club of Tacoma.

Officers and board members present:

Vice President	Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ
Secretary	Larry Watson KD4VOM
Treasurer	David Andresen W7HTJ
Board Member	Bruce Hanson WE7P
Board Member	Mike Finnie W7MWF
Board Member	Al Ferguson N7OMS

There were 14 names on the attendance roster a copy of which is attached to the original minutes

Quorum: Yes

The meeting was called to order at 7 pm by Vice President Mike W7XTZ.

Minutes:

The minutes of the February 2015 Board Meeting as distributed and coordinated, were approved without objection or correction.

HEALTH AND WELFARE: None reported

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Bank Statements
Utility and Phone Bills
Newsletters
Memberships
Contest Journal
Electric Radio
QSL Cards

TREASURER'S REPORT: David W7HTJ

- Presented and reviewed the 2014 annual financial report, derived from the Club's Microsoft Money software records.
- Presented and reviewed the Treasurer's Monthly Summary January 31 to February 17th Financial Report

- Reported renewal of the Club's State annual non-profit report.
- Reported submission of the annual IRS 2015 Non-profit report
- Reported that he is exploring the possibility of relief from our real and personal property taxes.
- Suggested that the Club's real property is underinsured and is arranging a meeting with the insurer to discuss the options.

Copies of the financial reports are attached to the original copy of these minutes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:**Membership:**

George reported the current membership at 260, and around 112 have not yet renewed. He has recently sent reminders to those not yet renewed and received a few responses. The club has a new lifetime member.

George presented an overview and brief tutorial on the results of our recent membership survey, and how to access the results through the Club's website.

Copies of George's survey documentation and results are attached to the original copy of these minutes

Training: The March Technician's class was canceled due to insufficient sign ups. The next Technician's Class April 11/12

Information Technology: – Randy Myers WB4SBP

Randy provided an IT summary update which included:

- Clubhouse IT system is fully functional with no issues
- Donated 14 inch Windows 8 laptop could use a carrying case
- The new IRLP computer was placed in service 12 February 2015 after a period of evaluation, the old computer will be turned over to Property Management for disposition

- Raised the issue of IRLP policy relative to allowing connectivity to reflectors. Use of reflectors is currently locked out. There are members who wish to have reflector access, while past experience has resulted in the repeater being locked up to the reflector. The IT committee asked the Board for guidance.
- The Board recommended continuing the reflector lock out pending any formal request from the membership.
- Randy recommended the addition of Chris Maher KG7NFF to the IT committee and the Board acknowledged his addition to the team

A copy of the IT report is attached to the original copy of these minutes.

HF Operations: Operational

No Report

Repeaters: Tim White K7TMW Provided a Board Requested proposal and justification for the purchase of a \$5000.00 IFR 1200S Service Monitor to maintain the Club's repeaters. This request exceeds the \$ 2000.00 expense threshold in the Club Bylaws which require the request to be presented to the membership for approval.

Tim was asked to prepare and present the rationale for purchase of the Service Monitor to the Club Membership for their consideration and approval. The Membership should be informed at least 30 days in advance, setting the most likely date for the presentation at the April 2015 General Membership Meeting.

A copy of Tim's Service Monitor justification and information is attached to the original copy of these minutes.

Repeater Status:

W7DK 145.21 Repeater, Bates Channel 28: -- Operational

W7DK 147.28 Repeater Clubhouse: Status -- Operational

W7DK 147.38 Repeater Crawford Mountain: Status -- Operational, awaiting installation of the 440 MHz control unit

W7DK 440.625 Repeater Clubhouse Status -- Operational

IRLP 147.28 Repeater) Operational

Facilities Management: No Change

Property Management:

Mike W7MWF recapped Property Management preparation for equipment disposition at this weekend's Mike and Key Hamfest.

General Membership Meeting Program for 11 March; Dave W7UUU

Dave will be presenting "The History of Radio 1825 to 1925"

Workshop Project:

28 March: Pending

Museum: Rich KR7W No Report

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

RCT Centennial Planning

Larry KD4VOM provided a brief summary of a Centennial planning meeting held 22 February. He noted that there is significant interest in operating events, QSL cards, and other promotional activities; there seems little interest in a Banquet in the group that met. There was a recommendation that the topic be presented to the membership to determine if there is both interest and willingness to manage a Centennial Banquet.

NEW BUSINESS:

BATES Technical College Donation: Tim K7TMW Recommended the Club provide a donation of \$ 100.00 to Bates Technical College, in part as a thank you for hosting the Club's 145.21 repeater and antenna.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to donate \$100.00 to Bates Technical College.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The meeting was adjourned at 20:15

**RCT General Meeting
11 March 2015 Meeting Notes**

The General Membership meeting was held at the Pierce County Library Administration Building at Waller Road and 112th Street. .

Vice President Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Officers and board members present:

President	Gary McAdams WG7X
Secretary	Larry Watson KD4VOM
Board	Mike Finnie W7MWF

A sign in sheet with the names of members and guests is attached to the original copy of these minutes. There were 36 names on the attendance roster.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Was led by Gary WG7X

INTRODUCTIONS: Welcoming of guests and self-introductions were completed. There were several first time visitors and newly minted/upgraded hams attending.

ILLNESS OR SILENT KEY: Leonard KA7NWF is reported ill.

Correspondence:

Newsletters
Utility Bills
Bank Statements
Membership Renewals
Newsletters and Journals
QEX, NCJ, Electric Radio

The Field Day Pig and Question box were circulated to collect donations for Field Day operations and member requests and ideas.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership: George K7GRS provided a membership of 291 about 100 have not yet renewed their memberships which will lapse the end of March.

W7DK

**Proudly celebrating 99 years
of Amateur Radio Service to
Pierce County and the Pacific Northwest**

V E Report: provided by John Clarke AC7WW and reported by Larry Watson KD4VOM

The clubhouse of the Radio Club of Tacoma hosted eight Candidates on Tuesday March 10th 2015. Five VE's graded sixteen elements with nine being passed. Two candidates passed element two to join the amateur service as Technicians. One candidate passed element 2 and 3 to join as a General. Five candidates upgraded to General.

Thanks to the following VE's for their time and effort.

Jan, K7HTU	Jon, AD7AW
Rich, KK7VH	Stephen, AD7AB

The next monthly scheduled testing session will be Tuesday April 14, 2015.

Training: Next Technicians Class April 11/12

HF Station: Operational

Repeaters: All Operational

Facilities: No Report.

Property Management: Mike Finnie W7MWF

Mike reported on the hard working 6 person crew who prepared, delivered and sold a fair amount of the Club's excess property at the Mike and Key Hamfest. As a result of their efforts, \$ 1419.50 income was generated, and with expenses of \$100.00 yielded a net gain for the club of \$1319.50

PROGRAM: The History of Radio from 1825 to 1925 Dave Ellison W7UUU

David presented a broad and thought provoking look at the history of Radio, noting that some of the early contributors were better at promotion than others, and some made significant advances in the science and development of Radio that weren't appreciated for years. If you missed this one you missed as great program...

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

RCT Centennial Celebration: Planning is getting underway, all are invited to participate in the planning for our 100 year anniversary, See any Board members.

DISCUSSION TOPICS: None

TUNING AND TRAFFIC: None Reported

DOOR PRIZES: There were no drawings or prizes tonight.

ATTA BOYS (and ATTA YL's)

Mike and Key Property Management crew: Mike W7MWF, Bob K7MXE, Bruce WB7EC, Greta KF7KSW, Jack K7DBU and Chuck AC7QN

The Mike and Key Information Table: Thanks to Bob N7NCP, who pretty much manned the Club's promotional table most of the day, with occasional help from members looking for a place to sit for a while. Thanks.!

George K7GRS for donating a case for our newly donated laptop, Thanks

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm



CALL FOR PHOTOGRAPHS

In connection with the Club's Centennial Celebration, David W7HTJ, Doug AD7AV and Mike W7XTZ are busy compiling a presentation to showcase the Club's history and activities over the years.

If you have any pictures of people, places, events, or equipment, please get ahold of one of them.

Their contact info is listed in the Club Directory, and they would be grateful for interesting and enlightening submissions to review and build their show.

Attention all hands

If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2015, you are now delinquent. Renew now, there is no late fee, so don't risk missing out on future newsletters, mailings, and opportunities to participate in and be involved with the many upcoming Club activities.



The RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA needs your donations.

DONATIONS PLAY A BIG PART IN FUNDING THE OPERATION OF RCT. IF YOU HAVE UNWANTED OR UNNEEDED AMATEUR RADIO OR RELATED EQUIPMENT. PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING IT TO THE CLUB

If you have something to donate please contact

Any member of the Property Management Team

What's Happening around RCT

ARRL Field Day 2015

Coming up on the last full weekend of June - that is June 26-28 - W7DK will again take to the field to hone our emergency operation skills under semi-primitive conditions. At present, the likely location will be at Western State Hospital in Steilacoom.

A planning/strategy session was held on March 18th, many tasks were identified and several slots were filled to oversee different projects that are essential to a fun, safe, and successful weekend.

Volunteers are needed to help guide the club and ensure that nothing is overlooked. If you want to help, please contact any Club Officer or Board Member, or Randy WB4SPB who is temporarily keeping track of who is doing what.

Remember, there are many skills that can be utilized beyond radio operation expertise. Without your help, the event won't be nearly as spectacular.

4th Wednesday Workshop

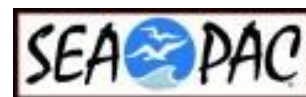
April 22 2015 7pm

We'll hear from **Bob Bosnyak AD7WU**, about **LTspice**, one of the circuitry modeling tools available today.

You may wish to get a head start by **installing LTspice on your computer** in advance of this Workshop. You can download LTspice from this website:

<http://www.linear.com/designtools/software/>

SEAPAC 2015



The ARRL Northwestern Division Convention will be held June 5-7, 2015 at Seaside, Oregon. Make plans now to attend this educational and fun event. Lodging is at a premium, so act now to line up a place to stay.

Our Centennial

In 2016, the Radio Club of Tacoma will celebrate 100 years of continuous operation. Be part of the planning for this once-in-our-lifetime event. Several informal meetings have been held to get things off the ground, but we need your ideas and your commitment to identify what types of events (both social and on-air), publicity, and other activities to make our centennial year a true sensation. No-one has yet stepped up to be the overall leader and coordinator, so if you want to earn the gratitude of the entire membership, raise your hand and say "ME!". If you have an idea or a willingness to help develop an activity or two that you think would be suitable, let us know. The success of our Centennial Celebration is up to each one of YOU!



Ask Radioman

Answers to your questions
pertaining to Amateur Radio and
Amateur Radio operation

Send your questions to: radioman@w7dk.org

Dear Radioman,

I have been a ham for about two months. The other day I was listening to the local radio club's repeater. I heard a repeater user, who obviously just arrived at his house. He told the ham he was talking to, "I just arrived at my HOME 20", so see you later". My question to you, Radioman, isn't this CB lingo? And isn't CB lingo frowned upon by amateur radio operators? What do you have to profess about this?

Name and Call Sign withheld by request of Julie, KG1JCS.

Dear Julie,

Yes, it is true that ham ops don't like to hear CB talk on any amateur frequency. The dislike is part of the tradition of ham radio that dates back to 1958 when the Federal Communications Commission created the Class D Citizen's Band radio service that uses frequencies from 26 to 28 MHz.

Back in those "ole days" the 10 meter ham band was made up of some of that 27 MHz that the FCC used to create the Citizen's Band. Perhaps you have noticed old HF transceivers that have 27 MHz as one of the 10 meter band selections.

When the hams who had to work hard to get a General class license lost some bandwidth to the CBers who simply had to sign the dotted line and pay a small fee to get a CB call sign, it's needless to say that those ham ops were irked.

When the Citizen's Band became a free-for-all kind of 23 channel (and later on 40 channel) chat room with all kinds of wacky lingo, the ham ops who are self policing of their bandwidth and privileges became even more disliking of the CB community.

We've all seen the Smokey and the Bandit movies, the TV show "Dukes of Hazzard", and heard the song "Convoy". These entertainment venues popularized the use of CB lingo. I am sure that you have heard the terms: "Bear", "Fly in the Sky", "Gumball Machines", and, "Kojak with a Kodak" in the media over the last 20 years. Ask your parents if you are not that old, Julie. All of this popularization of what some hams call the "Children's Band" just makes the CB lingo less desirable than ever to hear on the ham bands.

So, Julie— that's the history. But due to what is happening to ham radio as of late is creating some more friction between the THEMES and US's. The THEMES are the "new hams" who obtained their ham licenses through a one or two day seminar that teaches to the test, and with the test directly following. How could anyone fail to get a license. But, the THEMES are "new hams" who do not have any sense of the tradition of amateur radio.

The US's are the hams who think and believe that the tradition of amateur radio should be upheld and handed down from generation to generation or old Elmer to new ham op. This information and culture used to be handed down in ham radio classes that took 9 or 10 weeks plus learning the Morse code took more

Radioman Continued...

and more weeks. During those long times of learning together—bonds were formed, friends were made, and the culture was passed on. Now most of this is gone because almost anyone can easily get a ham license in a weekend.

Personally, Radioman does not think that there is any chance of going back to the old way of “passing the torch of knowledge” because now-a-days everyone wants everything to happen so fast. So, Radioman says, “If you can’t beat ‘em, then join ‘em”. So, Julie, with all of this said—Radioman proposes some ways of integrating the old ham radio culture with the ham radio of the future which is predicted to be very much what the Citizen’s Band evolved into. To begin with Radioman proposes some new short cut codes.

Julie, perhaps one of the older hams that you know has mentioned the “Q” signals. They are (now, were) shortcut codes that began with the letter Q. They were used by Morse code operators to handle traffic. These evolved in ham radio with many CW operators. As time went by, some of the Q signals were adopted by hams who used AM and/or SSB voice communication. A short time later, the Q signals became useful on FM, like two meter and 70 cm repeaters.

You may have heard these Q signals: QSL means ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT and has been adopted to mean YES, QTH means LOCATION, QSY means to CHANGE FREQUENCY.

Also, I am sure that you have heard some of the Citizen’s Band “10” codes in the movies and TV shows I mentioned above. For example: 10-4 means YES, or OK; or 10-20 means LOCATION or DESTINATION; and 10-41 means CHANGE TO CHANNEL __.

Both CB and ham codes were dual purpose. The code could make a statement or ask a question by how the users voice sounded. An example is: QSL means, “I understand”. However, 10-4? Means, “Do you understand the information I just gave you”?

Radioman proposes these radio codes for the new wave of amateur radio.

New, proposed, 10Q Signals	
Q1 Q1?	I cant hear you very well. OR Can you hear me very well?
Q4 Q4	Message received. OR Did you receive that?
Q6 Q6?	I am busy, please stand by. OR Are you busy now. Also, The frequency is busy now. OR Is the frequency busy now?
Q11 Q11?	You are talking too fast. OR Am I talking too fast? (Note: has nothing to do with Radio Shack)
Q20 Q20?	My location or destination is _____. OR What is your location? Home20.
Q27 Q27?	I am moving to another frequency. OR Should we move to another frequency?
Q83 Q83?	I am joking with you. Laughter. Is this an April Fool's joke?
Q28?	Is there another station calling me?
Q32 Q32?	I need a radio check. OR Are you checking your radio?
Q3 Q3?	I am finished transmitting to you. Are you finished transmitting to me?
Q Breaker! Q Breaker?	I want to break into your conversation. Is there a breaker?
Q77	Negative Contact.

Illegal CW operators can also use the Q10 codes. Sometimes ‘cut’ numbers can be used to save time. i.e. Q10 could be sent as QAT, or Q11 could be sent as QAA, and so on. Thanks for the great question, Julie. Radioman hopes that using these new codes will meld the new wave of ham radio operators with the old way of doing business on the amateur air waves. A big welcome, new Amateur Radio Operators. Q83? Q83 Q3 Q4?



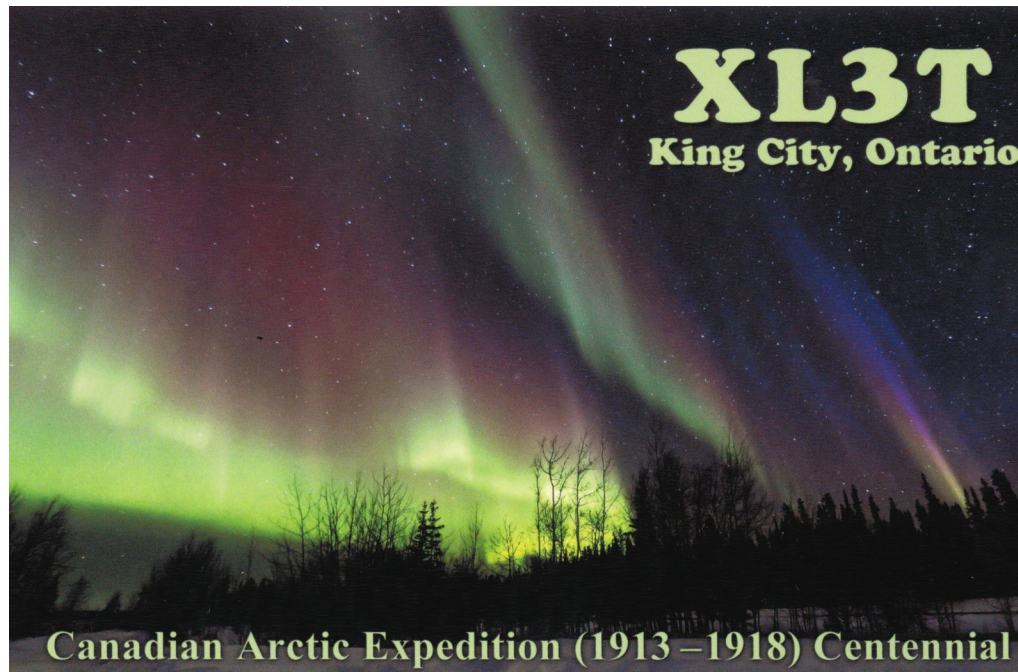
Rettysnitch, a primitive screwdriver antenna.

AURORAS

Among the most beautiful natural phenomena are auroras. No only do they intrigue us visually, they also can have an effect on radio signal propagation. Harry N7DOE has been kind enough to share these cards from his vast collection depicting majestic auroras on two continents.

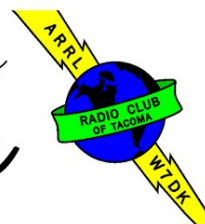
Operator's Wallpaper

If you have any special, or cool, or unique, or simply beautiful QSL cards in your collection that you'd like to share, please scan (high resolution is preferred) and email to the Bark Editor w7dk-news@earthlink.net. If you can't get them scanned, bring them along to the clubhouse on a Saturday, we'll scan them real quick and give them back to you.





The Radio Club of Tacoma's
Logger's Bark



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The Fine Print: The Logger's Bark is published once a month for the membership of The Radio Club of Tacoma or interested ham radio enthusiasts. The Bark is delivered by PDF file on the club's website: www.w7dk.org.

Permission is granted to use any or all portions of articles published in The Loggers Bark. If a credit line is included in the article, please seek permission from the original writer also.

Membership Info: FULL (licensed) and ASSOCIATE (non licensed) is \$35 per calendar year. \$30 for Licensed Seniors (65 and over). Licensed family members at same address pay \$20 each for the first two and are free for the third, fourth, and so on. Fulltime students, licensed or non licensed, up to age 25 are \$20 per year. Note: fees are applicable for the calendar year: Jan to Dec. Lifetime membership is 20 times the yearly fee you are eligible for.. Lifetime memberships are calculated based on the FULL and ASSOCIATE rates.

Radio Club Repeaters

Central Tacoma: 147.280 + PL=103.5

Crawford Mountain (SE Thurston County): 147.380 + PL=103.5

Central Tacoma: 440.625 + PL=103.5

North Tacoma: 145.21 – PL=141.3

Remember - For the latest and most current information on events and activities, visit the Radio Club of Tacoma Website w7dk.org. Be sure to enroll as a member to see all the info.

The Loggers Bark
Radio Club of Tacoma
PO Box 11188
Tacoma, WA 98411



Upcoming RCT Events

REGULAR EVENTS

Club Meetings: Second Wednesday of the month at the Library Administration Building 112th and Waller Road. The club meets at 7:30 PM. Everyone is invited to attend.

Workshops: Fourth Wednesday of the month at the Clubhouse, 1249 So. Washington St, Tacoma. A variety of training and educational events will be conducted.

Board Meeting: First Wednesday of the month at the RCT clubhouse. All members are welcome to attend .

Bark Deadline: Last week-end of each month. Please submit articles by that time!

Check into the weekly two meter net: Tuesdays at 7:30 PM on the club repeater on 147.280 MHz

Check into the weekly 10 meter net: Sundays at 8:00 PM on 28.375 MHz .

SPECIAL EVENTS

ARRL Field Day W7DK will head for the field on the last full weekend of June, 2015

End of Grace Period for Dues Renewal March 31, 2015